

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): A load distribution element to be mounted in a vehicle and adapted to be beneath at least one foot of an occupant of the vehicle, the load distribution element comprising a plate, where the plate having has a first region of a predetermined strength and at least one further region of a greater strength, the region of greater strength comprising at least a first area to be located beneath a predetermined part of said one a foot of an occupant of the vehicle.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended): An The load distribution element according to Claim 18, wherein the first area said part of the foot is to be located beneath the heel of the foot of the occupant.

Claim 20. (Original): An element according to Claim 19 wherein said first area is dimensioned to be located beneath the heels of two feet of the occupant.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended): An element according to Claim 19 wherein the further region incorporates a second area which extends adjacent one edge of the element and is adapted to be located under one side of said one the foot of the occupant.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) An element according to Claim 19 wherein the further region of a greater strength incorporates two further areas which extend adjacent two opposite sides of the element and are adapted to lie under side parts of said two feet of an occupant.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended): An The load distribution element according to Claim 18 wherein the element is substantially rectangular and the further region of greater strength incorporates one another area which extends across the element which and is spaced from said first area.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended): An The load distribution element according to Claim 18 wherein the element includes at least one relatively weak area which has a strength which is less than said predetermined strength.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended): An element according to Claim 32 wherein the relatively weak area is adjacent the second area and is adapted to be located under the other side of said the foot of the occupant.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended): An element according to Claim 33 wherein there are two said relatively weak areas located respectively adjacent said two further areas and adapted to lie under the other side parts of said the feet of the occupant .

Claim 27. (Currently Amended): An The load distribution element according to

Claim 18 ~~provided with~~ further comprising padding to be located between the element and the floor of a vehicle.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended): ~~An~~ The load distribution element according to Claim 18 ~~provided with~~ further comprising an inflatable air-bag to be located between the element and the floor of a vehicle.

Claim 29. (Original): An element according to Claim 28 wherein the element forms part of the upper cover of a housing containing the air-bag.

Claim 30. (Original): An element according to Claim 29 wherein the housing is a damp-proof sealed housing.

Claim 31. (Previously Presented) An element according to Claim 29 wherein the element is connected to the rest of the upper cover by a hinge-line.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented): An element according to Claim 21 wherein the element includes at least one relatively weak area which has a strength which is less than said predetermined strength.

Claim 33. (Previously Presented): An element according to Claim 22 wherein the element includes at least one relatively weak area which has a strength which is less than said predetermined strength.